

President-in-exile: Williams with wife at Peking May Day fete

major hostile force in Asia is China. And the Russians can be a counterweight to the Chinese along with us. They can help us promote stability in the area. They may make life more complex for us, but I hardly think they are going to make it more dangerous."

#### CHINA:

### The Black Expatriate

While men of goodwill around the world mourned the death of Martin Luther King Jr., Peking last week took a different tack. Unabashedly, Chinese Communist propagandists rejoiced both in the slaying of the civil-rights leader, whom they dismissed as a "traitor," and in the ensuing racial violence in U.S. cities.

Peking's ringing call for stepped-up racial strife in the U.S. was nothing new. As long ago as 1963, Mao Tse-tung himself declared that China "supports the Afro-Americans in their just struggle against racial oppression by U.S. imperialism." What was relatively novel in the latest onslaught was that it was apparently directed by a U.S. Negro—43-year-old Robert Williams of Monroe, N.C.

Though little known to the general public, Williams is something of a celebrity in extremist Negro circles in the U.S. Formerly head of the Union County, N.C., chapter of the NAACP, he was suspended in 1959 for urging Negroes to fight lynching with lynching and is on record as believing that "fire is the most effective weapon of the black man in America." Generally acknowledged as the ideological leader of the Black Panther Party, he is also "commander in chief" of a black-underground movement known as RAM (Revolutionary Action Movement). And two weeks ago, the 200 delegates to the National Black Government Conference in Detroit elected him president of the black nation they propose to carve out of the U.S.

Williams's life in exile began in 1961

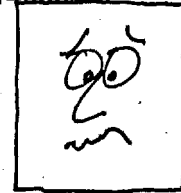
when he fled to Cuba after being accused of kidnaping a white couple during a racial flare-up in Monroe. But after five years in Havana, mostly spent in beaming broadcasts to the U.S. over Radio Free Dixie, Williams apparently decided that Fidel Castro was not militant enough to suit him. Accordingly, in July 1966, he moved to Peking where he was given quasi-diplomatic status.

But Williams, an intelligent and hard-working man, was not content to remain simply a Maoist showpiece. Within months of his arrival in Peking, he succeeded in talking the Chinese Communist government into considerably increasing the number of short-wave broadcasts which it aims at U.S. Negroes. And some U.S. diplomats also attribute to Williams's influence the fact that recently the number of Chinese Communist publications entering the U.S. by indirect means has more than doubled.

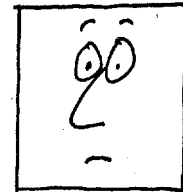
Despite his success in Peking, however, Williams reportedly would like to return to the U.S. One reason for this may be a realization on his part that the Chinese are not so much interested in promoting racial change in the U.S. as they are in using America's race problems to prove to the masses of Asia and Africa that the U.S. really is a "paper tiger." As one diplomat in Hong Kong observed last week: "Peking doesn't really expect instant Maoism in America. The Chinese are subtler than that."

### Trials of the Red Army

Mao Tse-tung is one of the world's least predictable men—an improbable combination of abstract theoretician and coldly practical politician. Two and one-half years ago, gripped by a kind of New Left conviction that all hierarchy corrupts, he launched the cataclysmic attack on the structure of his own government known as the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. By early last year, the cultural revolution had all but dismantled the Chinese Communist Party,



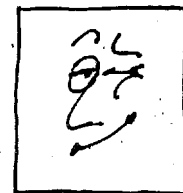
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